

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 ACDA-07 OMB-01

SAJ-01 /101 W

----- 035641

R 271611Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6891

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UR, US, XF

SUBJ: PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION

REF: MOSCOW 11623

1. SUMMARY. JULY 27 PRAVDA PAGE ONE LEAD ARTICLE ON
MIDDLE EAST COUPLED WITH MIDDLE EAST PORTION OF LENGTHY
JULY 26 IZVESTIYA ARTICLE ON U.S. MACHINATIONS AGAINST
THIRD WORLD IMPLY CONTINUING SOVIET FRUSTRATION OVER MIDDLE
EAST DEVELOPMENTS. CRITICISM IN BOTH ARTICLES ON
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U.S. AND ISRAELI "DIVIDE AND CONQUER" TACTICS TO SET ARABS

AGAINST ONE ANOTHER AND ARTIFICIALLY DELAY OVERALL SOLUTION IN MIDDLE EAST. IZVESTIYA DESCRIBES STEP-BY-STEP SOLUTION ADVOCATED BY U.S. AS INTENDED TO RESULT FIRST IN ISOLATION AND THEN IN LIQUIDATION OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT. PRAVDA CALLS FOR RETURN TO GENEVA AND REITERATES WITH SLIGHT NUANCES SOVIET FORMULA CONSISTING OF "ORGANICALLY LINKED" THREE ELEMENTS NECESSARY FOR OVERALL SOLUTION. KUDRYAVTSEV IN IZVESTIYA UNAMBIGUOUSLY DEFINES PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT OF STATEHOOD AS THE CEMENT WHICH HOLDS THE ANTI-IMPERIALIST UNITY OF THE ARABS TOGETHER. END SUMMARY.

2. WE ASSUME FBIS WILL CARRY COMPLETE TEXTS OF BOTH ARTICLES. WE ARE STRUCK BY FOLLOWING POINTS:

3. PRAVDA:

-- STRESS ON U.S. RESPONSIBILITY (BOTH DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY THROUGH CAMOUFLAGE OF "IMPERIALIST FORCES" OR "IMPERIALIST CIRCLES PROTECTING ISRAEL") FOR "ABNORMAL SITUATION" MIDDLE EAST, FOR EVENT GN LEBANONES "AN ARTIFICIAL DELAY" IN THE RESOLUTION OF ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT--AND FOR INACTIVITY AT GENEVA;

-- SPECIFIC ATTACK ON U.S. FOR ARMS SUPPLY TO REGION AND TO CONSERVATIVE STATES OF PERSIAN GULF

-- IMPLICIT ADMISSION THAT POLARIZATION HAS FAILED. NEW LINEUP IS SEEN AS "ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT AND ITS ALLIES, FORCES OF PROGRESS AND SOCIALISM" AND "ON OTHER SIDE, IMPERIALISM AND ITS PROTEGES, ISRAEL AND REACTIONARY REGIMES." EGYPT CERTAINLY AND, PERHAPS, EVEN SYRIA, IS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE ARAB COUNTRIES CRITICIZED FOR COMPROMISING WITH IMPERILISM;

-- CONTINUED LACK OF NEW SOVIET IDEAS REPRESENTED BY REHASH (ADMITTEDLY WITH SLIGHT SUBTLETIES) OF SOVIET POSITION ON RETURN TO GENEVA AND SOLUTION OF OVERALL PROBLEM OF MIDDLE EAST. PRAVDA CALLS FOR RETURN TO GENEVA WITH PARTICIPATION OF ALL DIRECTLY INTERESTED PARTIES, INCLUDING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PLO: ON PLO, HOWEVER, FORMULA "FROM VERY BEGINNING" IS OMITTED. PRAVDA SEES STANDARD THREE ELEMENTS OF OVERALL SOLUTION AS "ORGANICALLY LINKED." THESE ELEMENTS ARE: (A) WITHDRAWAL OF ISRAELI TROOPS FROM AL ARAB TERRITORIES OCCUPIED IN 1967; (B) SATISFACTION OF LEGITIMATE NATIONAL "DEMANDS" OF ARAB PEOPLE OF PALESTINE, INCLUDING INALIENABLE RIGHT TO CREATION OF THEIR OWN STATE, AND (C) ESTABLISHMENT OF INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES OF

SECURITY AND INVOLABILITY OF FRONTIERS OF ALL STATES OF MIDDLE EAST AND OF THEIR RIGHT TO INDEPENDENT EXISTENCE AND DEVELOPMENT. "DEMANDS" OF PALESTINIANS (ALSO REPEATED ELSEWHERE IN ARTICLE) REFLECT FORMULA IN SOVIET-JORDANIAN STATEMENT AFTER HUSAYN VISIT. REFERENCE TO "INVOLABILITY OF BORDERS" IS NOT NEW, BUT IS STRONG AND IS NOT ALWAYS REPEATED IN SOVIET LITANY.

4. IZVESTIYA: KUDRYAVTSEV:

WHERE PRAVDA EDITORIAL IS RATHER GENERAL AND TREATS LEBANESE CRISIS ALMOST IN PASSING, KUDRYAVTSEV, IN HIS SECTION ON MIDDLE EAST, LAYS OUT SOVIET CONCERN OVER FATE OF PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT WITH RARE PUBLIC CANDOR. AFTER DESCRIBING ALLEGED U.S. DIVIDE AND CONQUER TACTICS IN ME, KUDRYAVTSEV WRITES THAT U.S. CONCEPT OF SEPARATE AGREEMENTS INVOKES "NARROW NATIONALISM" IN ARAB WORLD WHICH ENABLES "ISOLATION AND, IN FINAL ACCOUNT, EVEN LIQUIDATION" OF PALESTINIAN RESISTANCE MOVEMENT WHICH HAS STOOD AS MOST SERIOUS OBSTACLE IN PATH OF STEP-BY-STEP POLICY. KUDRYAVTSEV GOES ON TO SAY THAT PALESTINIAN MOVEMENT SERVES AS THE CEMENT WHICH HOLDS TOGETHER ARAB UNITY AGAINST IMPERIALISM. HE IMPLIES IT IS THE ONLY SUCH CEMENT.

5. COMMENT. PRAVDA ARTICLE IS LONG ON LAYING BLAME FOR ME TURN OF EVENTS ON U.S., BUT REMARKABLY SHORT OF NEW IDEAS ON HOW TO RESOLVE LEBANESE CRISIS OR RESCUE BELEAGUERED PALESTINIANS. PRAVDA'S EXPLICIT REFERENCE TO IMPORTANCE OF U.S. ARMS SUPPLY TO REGION, COUPLED WITH SYSTEMATIC PRESS APPEARANCE OF SIMILAR ITEMS IN LAST FEW DAYS, IS A NEW WRINKLE IN SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ME AND COULD JUST POSSIBLE BE READ AS JUSTIFICATION OF MOSCOW'S OWN INDIRECT ARMS SUPPLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RELATIONSHIP WITH PALESTINIANS.
MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOSCOW11868
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760289-1000
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760718/aaaaaapply.tel
Line Count: 156
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOSCOW 11623
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 APR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 APR 2004 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <07 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, UR, US, XF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006